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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 47th, 48th and 57th meetings, on 2 and 3 May and 8 June 2005. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.47, 48 and 57).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/59/619);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/59/629);

(c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/736 and Add.5).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.66

4. At its 57th meeting, on 8 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/59/L.66), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Bahamas.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.66 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1598 (2005) of 28 April 2005,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 58/309 of 18 June 2004,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of the Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 59/___, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 15 April 2005, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 43.1 million United States dollars, representing some 7 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only sixty Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

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[1] A/59/619 and A/59/629.

[2] A/59/736 and Add.5.

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolution 59/___;

11. *Decides* that the posts of Chief of Staff, Legal Officer, Information Officer, Assistant in Facilities Management Services and Information Technology Assistant, which are filled respectively at the levels of D-1, P-4, P-3, G-7 and FS-5, shall be budgeted at those levels, pending the management review;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;[4]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

15. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 47,948,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, inclusive of 45,540,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 1,969,000 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 439,000 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

[3] A/59/736/Add.5.
[4] A/59/619.

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 15,982,800 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2005, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2005 as set out in its resolution 58/1 B of 23 December 2003;

17. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 940,600 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 836,000 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 92,767 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 11,833 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 31,965,600 dollars for the period from 1 November 2005 to 30 June 2006, at a monthly rate of 3,995,700 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2005 and 2006 as set out in its resolution 58/1 B, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

19. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,881,200 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,672,000 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 185,533 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 23,667 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

20. *Decides further* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 3,872,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2004, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2004, as set out in its resolution 58/1 B;

21. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 3,872,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2004, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Decides also* that the decrease of 598,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2004 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 3,872,700 referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above;

23. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

25. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".